

2013-14 University Senate Report

Committee on Committees

Submitted by Chris Kyselka, Chair

Members: Michael Ormiston, William Duncan, Rene Villalobos, Keith Hollinger, Audrey Beardsley, Shane Johnson

Mirna Lattouf directed the work of the committee as chair from June-December 2013. Chris Kyselka, previous committee chair, returned to the role of chair in January 2014.

The following summarizes committee work accomplished throughout this past year.

The first task involved staffing the senate standing committees. The senate mini-preference survey was distributed in August 2013 to solicit members for these committees. Forty-five senators responded. Committees were staffed shortly thereafter and voted in by an affirmation vote at the September senate meeting.

The Academic Assembly Fall Preference Survey was distributed in November 2013 to solicit nominations for campus President-elect, Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, Governance Grievance, Academic Professional Grievance Committee and Committee on Academic Professional Status. The nominations are an initial step toward preparations for the spring assembly elections. Approximately 100 responded to this survey.

The Provosts office consults with the Committee to recommend faculty and academic professionals for the Provost Roster of Boards, Committees and Councils. The Committee makes recommendations as vacancies occur. In March 2014, the University Committee Preference Survey was issued with 167 responses. At this time, more than enough faculty and academic professionals are available to fill vacancies that may come up during FY14.

As a result of these surveys, the committee is able to: (1) identify members for senate standing committees, (2) recruit candidates for the spring elections and (3) respond to requests for members from the Provost's office for boards, committees and councils as needed. A consistently good response to the survey to identify nominees or self-nominees for the academic assembly elections exists; however, sufficient numbers of candidates who are actually eligible and ultimately agree to stand for election for president-elect or the elected committees remains a complex issue.

The other major task for the committee is oversight of the academic assembly elections. As stated previously, although the list of nominees and self-nominees for president-elect, CAFT and Governance Grievance was plentiful, it was difficult to find enough candidates; uncontested elections are in progress in order to conclude elections by the end of the semester. It is anticipated otherwise that the elections will be held without issue.

As of the date of this annual report, the academic assembly elections will launch shortly and conclude by the end of April.

Committee Issues

Academic Assembly Elections. The academic professionals were able to hold contested elections for the Academic Professional Grievance and Academic Professional Status committees. Otherwise, no campus was able to hold contested elections, a chronic problem that is particularly evident this year. The challenge of securing candidates and holding contested elections for these most important faculty governance opportunities continues to be a significant issue.

The chair of the Constitution and Bylaws committee was contacted last and this year regarding reviewing current campus representation requirements for committees as an example of changes that might provide relief. This review, as well as elected committee eligibility requirements, might help avoid uncontested ballots during election season.

The Committee on Committees would like to thank the following individuals who provide excellent support to the senate and the tasks of the Committee throughout the year: Linda Glover Barnett, Elizabeth King and John Priewe.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Kyselka
Chair, Committee on Committees
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